PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Keeping Famiies Strong

January/February, 1999

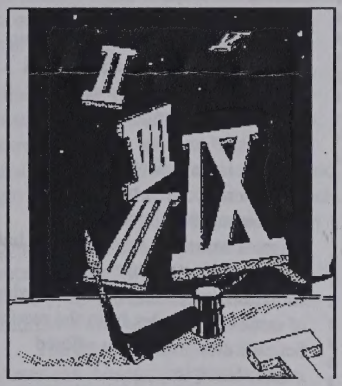
The Promise of the New Millennium

As we stand at the beginning of a new millennium and look back at the 20th century, we marvel at the advances made in medicine, the inventions of the computer, the Internet, television, and the explosion of scientific knowledge that has resulted in the exploration of our solar system. But what will the new millennium bring?

Although civilization has made huge advances in technology, we are just beginning to put social behaviors under the microscope. Why do people hate? How does prejudice gain a foothold and then cause people to kill? Is there a gay gene? With new genetic research, the imaging of the human brain, and the mapping of the human genome, it seems likely that the new millennium will bring huge advances in understanding inborn and learned human traits.

Already science has provided research that overturns seriously flawed stereotypes about gay people. Society is in the process of re-defining the family; re-appraising marriage rights; offering benefits to domestic partners. The rapid social changes taking place today are similar to the Renaissance of the 14th - 16th centuries when the scientific method was born; new lands were being explored, and there was a rebirth of learning after the invention of the printing press.

It was true in Renaissance times and it is true today that counter movements arise to deny new evidence that challenges old belief systems. Thus, the Catholic Church denied the discoveries of Copernicus and Galileo. The absolute power of the church resulted in the



Inquisition, the burning of books and witch hunting — all because the church it could not embrace new knowledge that threatened established beliefs.

The rise of the importance of individuals —humanism —in the Renaissance combined with the abuses of the Church, inspired our country's founders to create a democracy with a Constitution that guaranteed the separation of church and state.

Thomas Jefferson explained the decision in a 1813 letter to Alexander von Humboldt: "History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government. This marks the lowest grade of ignorance of which their civil as well as religious leaders will always avail themselves for their own purposes."

James Madison concurred. "In no instance have . . . the churches been guardians of the liberties of people," he wrote.

Scientists of today are distressed that official church bodies continue to make decisions and ethical pronouncements based upon premises that are not supported by the scientific community. Dr. Robert Lahita, associate professor of medicine at Cornell Medical Center, points out that "sanctified ignorance is still ignorance."

Today, there are para-religious groups and "priest-ridden people" demanding to teach creationism as a science, positing faith healing to "cure" homosexuality; and thinking that posting the Ten Commandments will solve school shootings!

The good news is that ultimately such foggy views of cause and effect and the denial of life's complexities simply will not work anymore. Thinking people will eventually embrace the truth. Society will change to accommodate new knowledge and research. The people who wrap themselves in ignorance will cease to be relevant.

A hundred years from now historians will trace the rise of the human rights movement—including those of women, blacks and gays— as a great struggle against ignorance and the entrenched influence of the politico-religionists.

But the new millennium offers a promise of better things to come. It will bring unimagined discoveries that will transform society. Age old beliefs and customs that no longer make sense will be swept away. The promise of the U.S. Constitution will be realized. And all human beings will be valued.

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Good News for the New Century

Here is some good news to usher in the new millennium!

In Iowa, Gov. Tom Vilsack has signed an Executive Order banning discrimination in state employment based on "race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability. The move is thought to be the first executive order of its type because it is inclusive of transgendered people.

In Denver, the City Council ap-proved a registry for committed un-married couples, including gay and lesbian couples. The registry will start in early February and is modeled after similar programs in Boulder, the state of California, and 35 other cities.

Filing with the registry won't qualify as a marriage or common law marriage and will not affect inheritance rights. But it will be a start in recognizing gay relationships. "It's a matter of human dignity," said Councilwoman Ramona Martinez.

In Boulder District Judge Roxanne Bailin awarded full parental rights to two lesbian partners even though one of the women has no biological ties to the other's unborn child. The case is among a handful of precedent-setting decisions across the country giving gays legal rights to non-biological children. Judge Bailin said she based her ruling solely on Colorado law. "This was not a political act," she said. "It was a purely legal interpretation."

In Vermont the State Supreme Court ruled that gay couples must be granted the same benefits and protections given married couples of the opposite sex. The court said the Legislature will determine whether such benefits will come through formal marriage or a system of domestic partnerships.

This ruling could have significant ramifications nationwide. It is the first time an appellate court has said there is a constitutional right for same-sex marriage.

The Majority Opinion of the Vermont Ruling

The extension of the Common Benefits Clause to acknowledge plaintiffs as Vermonters who seek nothing more, nor less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting human relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity.

The issue before the court, more-over does not turn on the religious or moral debate over intimate same-sex relationships, but rather on the statu-tory and constitutional basis for the exclusion of same-sex couples from the secular benefits and protections offered married couples. . .

We hold that the State is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under the Vermont law. Whether this ultimately takes the form of inclusion within the marriage laws themselves or a parallel "domestic partnership" system or some equi-valent statutory alternative, rests with the Legislature. Whatever system is chosen, however, must conform with the constitutional imperative to afford all Vermonters the common benefit , protection, and security of the law.

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court giving a lesbian visitation rights to her ex-partners child. The state courts said, "The recognition of DE facto parents is in accord with notions of the modern family. It is to be expected that children of non-traditional families, like other children, form parent relationships with both parents, whether those parents are legal or de facto."

The Rainbow Flag Flies

Two years ago, a young man named Kurt Conklin moved to Powelton Village, a neighborhood in West Philadelphia. He liked his new row house and neighborhood, but thought his street was a bit drab. So he hung out a colorful flag,— a rainbow flag — because Conklin is gay.

It flew from a flagpole mounted on a metal bracket until earlier this year when someone ripped it down. He bought another Rainbow Flag and hung it out. Within a few days, it was gone, too. The third Rainbow flag, he anchored with a cable on the third floor, high above the street. That one lasted about a month. It was pulled down by someone who, Conklin figures, was "pretty good with a lasso."

In September, Conklin hung a fourth flag over the second floor. As a precaution, he took it down every night. Then one night this fall, some Drexel University students emerged from a bar very drunk, yelled "homo" and "faggot" outside Conklin's house, and referred to him as the guy with the gay flag—even though the flag wasn't flying.

Conklin wrote a letter to the Drexel student newspaper and talked to school officials about the incidents. He also showed it to the Rev. Patricia Pearce, his pastor. Pearce was upset for Conklin and along with her landlady wrote a flyer and distributed it door-to-door, suggesting that people fly a rainbow flag in support of Conklin. Next on board was the Powelton Village Civic Association. Then the owner of Giovanni's Room, a gay book-store, offered to make Rainbow Flags available at cost.

This is why, if you ride through Powelton today, you'll see Rainbow Flags flying from about three dozen homes in the neighborhood. It doesn't mean that all the people inside those homes are members of the gay community. It means, Pearce explains, that the people of Powelton are making "a statement about valuing diversity in our neighborhood, especially since that value had come under attack."

The Apple Pie Brigade

The PFLAG National conference is gearing up for a weekend packed with unique and useful events for the entire PFLAG family —from chapter leaders to new members; from parents to g/l/b/t people.

Do you have a favorite apple pie recipe?

PFLAG National is soliciting recipes from families in a nationwide contest. On Wednesday evening, April 26th, early comers to the convention will gather to bake apple pies, which will be delivered to members of Congress on Thursday afternoon.

The conference officially kicks off Friday evening, April 28, with a plenary session on the g/l/b/t movement and PFLAG'S role in it. More than 45 workshops are scheduled on Saturday. Topics include a range of support, education and advocacy topics, including group facilitation, organizing families in communities of color, violence prevention, grandparents' issues, public speaking, difficult family issues, and fighting the radical right effectively.

Presenters include nationally recognized experts, leaders of chapters with successful programs, and representatives of leading national g/l/b/t and mainstream groups.

An Awards Banquet and Dance are on docket for Saturday night. Sunday morning an interfaith service and a special membership meeting will be held. Later in the morning the Millennium March on Washington will get underway —a never to be forgotten experience and one of historical importance.

From April 28-30, conference attendees will have access to the conference Exhibits Hall and Cyber Cafe, where people can check their email and receive on-the-spot computer training.

For more specifics log on to http://www.pflag.org/confreg.html.

Just The Facts Please

In late November an unprecedented coalition of the nation's leading education, health and mental health organizations published a booklet entitled *Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth.* Fifteen thousand copies were mailed to school district superintendents across the country.

The booklet urges educators and school administrators to better understand sexual orientation development, support lesbian, gay and bisexual students, and reject efforts to bring "ex-gay" messages into the nation's schools.

The publication was prompted by concerns that school personnel were receiving inaccurate information on the issue of sexual orientation and how to address it best with students.

The coalition included the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Counseling Association, American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American Psychological Association, American School Health Association, the Interfaith Alliance Foundation, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, and the National Education Association.

The publication is precedent-setting and was hailed by PFLAG; the National Youth Advocacy Coalition which focuses on a broad range of issues facing g/l/b/t youth; and The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), which fights to end anti-gay bias in America's K-12 schools.

Never before have so many mainstream national organizations come together to provide educators with information about youth sexual orientation development, with the goal of supporting gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.

PFLAG Executive Director Kirsten Kingdon said, "Every day, I talk to other families who have a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered child, just as I do. We know our loved ones face unspeakable harassment and violence at school —and we know that, with information and resources, schools can do a better job of ensuring that all students are safe. This unprecedented publication is precisely the kind of factual, objective material our schools badly need."

PFLAG Chapters have received a free copy of *Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth.* Others may be ordered from GLSEN, at 212-727-0135 *x136.*

INSIDE/OUT GAY YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth

Weekly meetings offer rapping and recreational activities under the guidance of trained facilitators. There is no fee.
Meetings are safe, supportive, and confidential.
Indepth counseling available.

Call 719-328-1056
email: NsideoutCS@aol.com
http://www.outgay.com/community/colorado/youth

Sponsored by the Community Council for Adolescent Development

Colorado Anti-Gay Marriage Initiative in Works

A proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages in Colorado has been approved by the Secretary of State's office. Opponents of the initiative have 30 days to challenge it. If it survives, signatures of nearly 64,000 registered voters will have to be collected to put the measure on the November ballot.

If approved by voters, the measure would recognize only marriages between one man and one woman and would make same-sex marriages performed in other states invalid in Colorado.

The measure, which cleared the secretary of state's title-setting board in late December, will face opposition.

"As a statewide agency, we are committed to fighting this every step of the way," said Lori Ann Girvan, executive director of Equality Colorado. "We feel that the taxpayers of Colorado don't need another anti-gay ballot initiative that will re-ignite our state's reputation as a place of intolerance."

Colorado law already limits marriage to heterosexual couples. But Candace McCune, an Englewood lawyer representing Coloradans for Traditional Marriage, said the measure would close a loop-hole in the state Constitution."Nowhere does it say that marriages in a foreign jurisdiction are not valid in Colorado," she said. "That's what's missing (in the law)."

Despite her pronouncement, the legality of the proposal is dubious. The U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit clause provides that laws passed by one state be recognized and supported by the others. An example: Although the State of Colorado does not allow any person under the age of 16 to marry, the state recognizes Texas marriages of people age 14.

Background of the Proposal

The Coloradans for Traditional Marriage's original proposal, which failed in the legislature, defined a man as having an xy chromosome and a woman as having an xx chromosome. If the final language of the initiative reflects this fundamental belief, it will be fatally flawed. For biological research reveals that there is greater gender diversity than that. For instance an xyy person (one birth in 500 people) under such a law could never marry. One man in 20,000 is xx chromosomally. There are xy females as well. Restricting marriage to such a narrow definition of male and female would unleash a legal nightmare over inheritance rights and other marriage contracts —not to mention an infringement of privacy rights if chromosomal testing before marriage is required.

Marriage historically has been a LEGAL institution in our patriarchal society designed specifically to transfer property and status from a father to his own son(s). Even into the 1900s a man who could not prove who his father was, was not allowed to own property or to vote. Strict control of women and the institution of marriage was the way a man could guarantee that a boy-child was his.

KEEPING FAMILIES STRONG

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members; provides educational material for families and the public; and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings.

Membership includes newsletter
____New member ____Old member

____Low income .	**$5.00-10.00**	
____Individual . .	**$20**	
____Household . .	**$30**	
____Supporting. .	**$60**	
		$____
National PFLAG membership (includes PFLAGpole)	**$10**	**$____**
Other contribution		**$____**
Gift Membership (includes newsletter)	**$10**	**$____**
Total		**$____**

Membership extends from Oct. 1, 1999 - Sept 31, 2000

Name_____

Address_____

City_____**State**_____**Zip** _____

Home phone _____**Work phone**_____

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Membership and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.
If you need a receipt for tax purposes please call 591-6793.

PFLAG Popourri

On Saturday, January 22, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. there will be a "summit" meeting at the Unitarian Church to discuss and plan for the future of PFLAG Colorado Springs. We plan to go through the lunch hour until about 2:00 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be supplied.

Due to the fact that there has been no response from the membership to continue the programs that the chapter is currently involved with, some changes must be made to cut back.

Some alternatives to consider: cutting down the number of meetings per year; doing away with monthly programs; cutting out the newsletter. If at all possible the leadership believes that the chapter should try to maintain the hot line and have several parents who are free to talk to new parents/families who call in needing support.

We urge everyone —including the founders of PFLAG —to attend this meeting. We need your input on how to scale back or revitalize the chapter. If you can't come, be sure to relay your thoughts to one of the Board members.

The other matter coming before the Board of Directors will be to discuss changing PFLAG's meeting place to the MCC Church. Those who attended the December party thought the facilities were great!

Unless otherwise informed, the February meeting will be at the Unitarian Church as usual. No program has been planned.

Two more newsletters will be forthcoming.—-March/April issue and a May/'June issue. Stay tuned!

PFLAG Meeting

January 12, 2000

The video *Out of the Past* will be shown. This film was the winner of the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

The film recounts the history of the gay movement from the 1920s and the efforts of Henry Gerber to launch the first gay rights organization in the United States. The story is told through the eyes of Kelli Peterson, a 17-year-old high school student in Salt Lake City.

Out of the Past explores Kelli's history-making experience of forming a Gay/Straight Alliance in her public school. It examines the protests, legislative battles, and reaction of the national media.

PFLAG MEETING

February 9, 2000

Unitarian Church

Aspen Ski Week to Benefit PFLAG

Pflag is honored to be one of the national recipients of proceeds from Aspen Gay and Lesbian Ski Week. The annual event will be held this year during the week of January 22-29. Over 5,000 gay men, lesbians and straight allies are expected.

The event has grown into one of the largest winter sport gatherings in the world.

Each day organizers choose a designated mountain for skiing and boarding, then cap off the afternoon with apres ski parties at that location. During evening hours dinner parites at local restaurants are scheduled so that participants can meet new friends,from around the world. Varied entertainment is planned with music, dancing, comedy, drag shows, Aspen Ballet performances, and gallery walks.

An Historical Perspective

Did you know that for the past four years our PFLAG newsletters have been sent to the Colorado Historical Society where they are kept on file and are made accessible to researchers? Almost a decade ago the Society recognized the struggle for gay equality as one of the great human rights movements of the century and began to collect grassroots memorabilia, personal testimony, and publications.

Perhaps 100 years from now an historian tracing the rise of gay equality in this country will zero in on Colorado Springs, the birthplace of Amendment 2. That historian will find the "people's story" in the microfilm banks and computer files, showing how people that were discriminated against *felt;* how they *coped;* and what *resources* they drew on.

YOU are the people in those files; YOU are the families who stood with your gay family members against political behemoths with bankrolls in the millions of dollars. YOU and YOU picked up a placard and marched for equality. YOU and YOU and YOU spoke at churches and colleges and schools and health fairs.

One hundred YOUs with your personal stories have begun to make a difference among reasonable people. Never forget that YOU are living history right now. YOU are influencing the outcome. And that YOUR efforts can change the world. They already have!

Take a bow!

PERSPECTIVES

King James Bible Under Fire from Fundamentalists

Now it's official. The reason so many people are gay is because they were brought up on the King James version of the Bible!

At a meeting last summer of James Dobson, the Family Research Council, the Christian Coalition and other fundamentalist religio-politicos, they denounced the words of the King James Bible as a tool of the "homosexual agenda."

WHY? Because King James was said to be a HOMOsexual. Actually, King James had nothing to do with the translation; he was the patron who commissioned the project. The poetic King James version has withstood the test of time for 400 years and is still a beloved source of scripture in many churches.

But not in the fundamentalist churches who adopted their own version of the Bible in the 1940s. It contains the word "homosexuality" for the first time.

I think what the Vermont Supreme Court did last week was in some ways worse than terrorism.

. . .Gary Bauer, regarding Vermont's Supreme Court's ruling that gay couples must be granted the same benefits and protections given to married heterosexual couples.

There is a malnourished intellect behind the face of every bigot.

Contributor to PFLAG Discuss

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Where do we go from here? First, we must massively assert our dignity & worth. We must stand up amidst a system that still oppresses us and develop an unassailable and majestic sense of values. We must no longer be ashamed. The job of arousing worth within a people that have been taught for so many centuries that they are nobody is not easy.

. . .Martin Luther King, Jr.
in a SCLC Presidential address.

Marital sex tends toward the boring. Generally, it doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does.

. . .Paul Cameron in Rolling Stone magazine.

Cameron is a researcher and advisor to Right Wing political groups. He states that "homosexuality seems too powerful to resist" and warns that gay sex may supplant heterosexuality. Therefore, society should remain vigilantly anti-gay.

EVERYONE PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP OUR MEETINGS CONFIDENTIAL

This doctrine ["that the condition of man cannot be ameliorated, that what has been must ever be, and that to secure ourselves where we are we must tread with awful reverence in the footsteps of our fathers"] is the genuine fruit of the alliance between Church and State, the tenants of which finding themselves but too well in their present condition, oppose all advances which might unmask their usurpations and monopolies of honors, wealth and power, and fear every change as endangering the comforts they now hold.

. . .Thomas Jefferson: Report for University of Virginia,

The church says the earth is flat, but I know that it is round, for I have seen the shadow on the moon, and I have more faith in a shadow than in the church.

. . .Ferdinand Magellan

I am personally repulsed by men with earrings. It's all paganism. All that piercing goes back to paganism!

. . .Pat Robertson

The Colorado Springs Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a non-profit, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, educational, counseling, business, or political group. Our purpose is to support and educate families to better understand homosexuality and to provide the community with information and insights gained through our experience and study.

PFLAG AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

For the 2nd time in three months PFLAG members have addressed the Colorado Board of Education. On November 11th, the Board opened their meeting for public comment and three Denver PFLAG members were there to speak. Pat Romero, Hilarey Walker, and Dorothy Ferranti. All spoke their allotted three minuets and told the Board their personal experience with the hostility which their school-aged children had to face.

Pat told how her gay son avoided detection during his high school years, but suffered dangerously high blood pressure from his desperate need to hide his sexual orientation. Two years later, his younger sister, who is straight, was nearly hounded out of school because the students found out she had a gay brother. The girl was a student at Columbine High School where she said anti-gay slurs were the common way to humiliate others.

Hilarey told about how her son's name was spray-painted on a high school garbage can with the words "Die Faggots Die", and the effective response by the school staff which supported her son and disciplined the offender. Dorothy told about the wrenching fear experienced by her gay son and lesbian daughter during their school years and the devastating effect that anti-gay harassment has on any and all students who happen to be a little different.

On November 22nd, Denver PFLAG members Dr. Wayne Carle and Merlin Logan spent 40 minutes with Education Commissioner Dr. William Maloney. The two parents described the dehumanizing harassment and injury many gay and lesbian students face in schools. Dr. Maloney stated that he was well aware of the prevalence of this discrimination and reflected on the ugly side of student behavior which he saw while serving as a high school principal. Ideas were offered to the Commissioner for including principles of student safety and respect in Accreditation Contracts, and for arranging for the State Board to see *Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium.* PFLAG was offered as a resource to the Commissioner in case the Board might want to learn more about the harassment which is occurring in our public schools.

On April 13, 2000 The Colorado Springs PFLAG chapter will be making a presentation before the Colorado State Board of Education.

The Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters has taken on the work of educating the State Board of Education about the extent of anti-gay harassment in our schools and its harmful effects on our youth. Jean Hodges of PFLAG Boulder inspired the idea for this work with the result that PFLAG members from five chapters around the state have volunteered to testify at Board hearings during the next five months. Boulder chapter members testified at the December 9th hearing of the Board. Other chapter members are slated for the coming months.

In addition, the PFLAG Coalition is now preparing, with the help of one of the State Board of Education members, a proposed anti-discrimination statement to be presented to the State Board this spring. If adopted, gay school children across the state will be included in anti-discrimination policies.

Financial Report and Status of the Colorado Springs PFLAG chapter

The fiscal year for our chapter ended September 30, 1999. The chapter operated strong and healthy over the past year. We made great moves in both our work and in our financial status. We were able to assist other groups in the community, obtain more educational materials and look toward this New Year with growth and support to our members and the community.

At the end of the fiscal period, the chapter is pleased to say we are able to show a net increase of $2,001.51 over our loss in the previous fiscal period of $930.12. This increase has come from the support of ALL members of this chapter and some of the special fund-raising projects that had taken place over the year.

At this time we are showing a balance of $8,865.65, mostly due to our current membership drive. Our overall operating expenses for the fiscal year runs approximately $6,600.00. Examples of those expenses are : advertising $1214.00, donations $670.00, educational materials $1600.00, newsletter expense $1115.00 and postage and printing expense of $902.00. We have been able to maintain a fairly constant operating costs from year to year.

The drive for matching funds from the Gill Foundation, was very successful. We were able to submit to the foundation a total of new funds collected of $1,640.25. We will receive approximately $40% to 45% of this amount. The support for the matching funds campaign could not have happened without you.

THANK YOU ALL, for your your support on this. New goals and ideas are always taking place with your chapter. This only happens with your continued support, so ALL members give yourself a pat on the back. Thanks.

As always the financial records and reports are available to any member to see. To do so, please contact the treasurer, Mike Hipp.

BULLETIN BOARD

PFLAG meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the Unitarian Church at Dale and Tejon streets. Doors are open at 6:30 p.m. for social time. Sharing circles start at 7:00 p.m. and the program at 8:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Unitarian Church annex on the corner of Dale and Cascade streets. All members are welcome.

Wednesday, January 12, 2000 - The video *Out of the Past* will be shown. See page 5.

Wednesday, February 9, 2000 - Program to be announced.

NOTICE:

The Colorado Springs PFLAG Chapter will hold a "summit meeting" on Saturday, January 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Church. All members welcome. The chapter needs to make some important decisions regarding the future. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be supplied. See page 5.

Other Meetings, Conferences, and Gay Times

Monday, January 17 - Martin Luther King Day with parade and services.

Saturday January 22—Saturday January 29 - 29 Aspen Gay Ski Week. For recorded info call 970-925-9249 or for the office call 925-4123. Web site: www.gayskiweek.com

Friday, January 28 - Sixth annual Lobby Day in Denver organized by Equality Colorado. Call 303-227-8545.

Saturday January 29 - Semi-annual membership meeting, Gender Identity Center in Denver. 7: p.m. Call 303-202-6466.

Saturday, February 12 - Third annual National Freedom to Marry Day.

Saturday, February 19 - Human Rights Campaign annual dinner in Denver. See http://www.coloradodohrc.org.

Wednesday, March 1—Sunday March 5, 2000 - Colorado Gold Rush 2000, sponsored by the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc. Best Western Denver Central Hotel. Registrations should be received by Feb. 20th. For Registration forms, fees and a schedule of events call 303-202-

PFLAG National new address: 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20036. Same phone and fax #s and email address.

Thanks to T.D.E., the Denver Exchange, for graciously providing space for the PFLAG Colorado Springs Home page. TDE Internet can be reached at (303) 455-4252 or sales @tde.com

The PFLAG Colorado Springs Home page is located at: www.tde.com/~pflagcos

PFLAG NATIONAL WEB

http://www.pflag.org

High Plains Church is again starting its Welcoming Congregation Course beginning Monday nights January 17th from 7 - 9 pm. All are welcome. This course is designed to educate our congregation about LGBTs and how people acquire homophobia growing up and provides a "faith in action" approach to ending the oppression of LGBT minorities. It helps to erode the bases of those responses to non-heterosexual humanity that are in fundamental contradiction with our religious principles.

High Plains is a Unitarian church on the northside at Academy and Brookwood. Drive (1 block South of Woodmen). We are a family church and VERY welcoming to gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered. We have a number of very active gays in our congregation and on our board.

Please come and see what we are all about. You'll like us.

Contact the PFLAG newsletter editor at Tel. and Fax: 719-598-5258—e-mail: PatPfeif@aol.com (Pat Pfeiffer)-

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their families and friends, through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.